**Introduction to Christian Worship**

Guidelines for the Group Project

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Your working group will plan and lead the class at a worship service of 35-40 minutes. Guidelines for your preparation are as follows:

1. **Define your congregation**. It might be your own church, your denominational gathering, an ecumenical or interreligious conference, or the Iliff community. The working group should assume that the congregation is a heterogeneous mix of those who have varying degrees of formation and familiarity with the tradition or traditions you will represent. Diversity in race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, political conviction, and theological orientation must be taken into account.
2. **Choose a liturgical context**. For this group project, you are encouraged to consider a special worship service rather than a regular Sunday service. For example, it might be a corporate prayer meeting, the commemoration of a specific event (e.g., a funeral, an anniversary, a graduation service, etc.), or a denominational, ecumenical, or interreligious service.
3. **Choose a theological theme for your worship service**. For example, it might be justice and peace, sin and forgiveness, or reconciliation and solidarity. Discuss with your group how the theme should be interpreted in your particular congregational and liturgical context.
4. **Consider what kind of worship style your group is going to use**. Traditional? Contemporary? Emergent? Blended? Or any other creative style?
5. **Design the order of service and discuss the components of worship.** For example, what kinds of music, prayer, technology, creed, text(s), sermon, etc. will be included in the service? Why should (or should not) some components be included in the order of the service? If you need some professional musicians, you may invite them at your own cost.
6. **Consider worship space** and prepare some symbols and liturgical artifacts if necessary.
7. **Make enough copies of the worship bulletin** if necessary and bring them in to the class on your group presentation day.
8. **Videotape** your group’s worship service.
9. **Post on Canvas** 1) Interpretive Notes of Worship, summarizing the entire process of the worship preparation (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. or 500-750 words) and 2) a group evaluation paper (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. or 250-500 words), by the Sunday of Week 5.